

Week Four: The Manners of Visiting

Contents

THE HOST'S DUTIES AND THE GUESTS' RIGHTS	2
STAY IN TOUCH	3
A BRIEF ADVICE TO MY SISTERS	4

THE HOST'S DUTIES AND THE GUESTS' RIGHTS

[1] If you are having a guest overnight, be hospitable and generous.

[2] But do not exaggerate when providing food and drink to your guest. Moderation without excess is the Sunnah.

[3] Inform your guest of the direction of Qibla and show them the way to the bath.

[4] When meeting your guests, serve them with tact and respect. Dress properly and look your best but do not overdo it.

The close relationship between you is no excuse for negligence or indecency in your manner or look.

[5] Imam Bukhari in Al-Adab Al-Mufrad reported that our forefathers used to look their best when visiting each other.

[6] Be kind and generous to your guests. As a rule do not ask them to help you with house chores.

Imam Shafie' said 'Gentlemen do not employ their visiting guests.'

[7] If you visit a relative or a friend, you should be considerate of your host's circumstances and work commitments.

[8] Shorten, as much as possible, the length of your visit, since every person has various duties, obligations and responsibilities.

[9] Be considerate of your hosts and help them with their business, house chores and obligations.

[10] While at your hosts' house, do not inspect and examine every corner, especially when you are invited beyond the guest room, lest you see something you're not supposed to notice.

[11] In addition, do not bother your hosts by asking too many questions.

NOTES

STAY IN TOUCH

[1] If you cannot visit your relatives, friends or acquaintances, you should still keep in touch by calling them or sending them a letter.

[2] Al-Fadhl ibn Marwan, the vizier of the Abbasid Khalifah al-Mu'tasim said, 'Inquiring about friends is [like] meeting them.'

[3] In this regard, I would like to quote two poems:

If dear friends missed meeting each other
Then, the best meeting is a letter

I will be grateful every day
To a friend sending greetings while far away

NOTES

A BRIEF ADVICE TO MY SISTERS

[1] If you want to visit your relatives or your Muslim sisters, carefully select the day and the hour of your visit and its duration.

[2] Do your best to make the visit a nice, brief, and pleasant one.

[3] It should be a visit whose purpose is to rekindle and nourish an old friendship or kinship. The visit is desirable if it is short and considerate, and it is undesirable if it is long and tedious during which conversation moves from being purposeful and valuable to being aimless and useless.

[4] The honourable follower Mohammed ibn Shihab Al-Zuhri said: 'When a meeting becomes too long, Satan increasingly participates in it.'

[5] Make sure that during a visit that most, if not all of your talk, is of value and benefit. Keep away from backbiting, gossip, and idle talk.

NOTES
